

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 7-26-2020

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Staff working from home

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org, 419-358-5766

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., Welcoming Prayer and the Examen, <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Worship, Wanda preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,

contact Carrie Mast for password

MCC 100th anniversary virtual celebration, 6:30 p.m. (see details, page 2)

July 27-August 1

Tuesday (July 28) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday (July 30) Climate and Community webinar, 2 p.m. (see page 2 for details)

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Sojourners, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.; Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

July 27 – Phil Blount

July 28 – Joan LoBianco

Daryl Richard

July 29 – Sam Diller

Tami Hardy

Lawrence Matthews

John Rich

July 30 – Quinn Longworth

August 1 – Isaac Strahan

August 2 – Rachel Clemens

Zoom Meeting



We know you're looking forward to fewer Zoom meetings and more face to face. Until then, keep smiling!

Thermostat set higher; fire doors must stay closed

Those who visit First Mennonite may notice that the temperature is a bit warmer than usual in the FH and sanctuary. Due to less use of the church, the thermostats have been set higher. In addition, we plan to keep the fire doors shut.

With our recent procurement of hand sanitizers for each room and entrance, and in anticipation of wall-mounted touchless dispensers at the entrances, the doors will remain closed. Prior to worship service tapings on Wednesdays, we will prop open the fire doors and close them at the end of each taping. If you visit the church, please do not prop open these doors.

Cancellations

According to Mark Yoder, president of Bluffton Weekday Christian Education board, WCE has been canceled for the remainder of 2020, with the possibility of reinstating classes in 2021.

Camp Friedenswald has canceled all fall 2020 retreats. "As we look forward to the fall, we again see a very different season than past years. When we think of our fall retreats, we see many high-risk activities - large groups, people from different places, gatherings in buildings, length of time gathered, corporate singing, and the average age of participants." ~ Naomi Leary, program director

Reminders

You're invited to join (virtually) the memorial service of Jacob T. Friesen, who served as pastor of First Mennonite from 1956-67. The service is being held at the Faith Mennonite Church, Newton Kansas and will be streamed online at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 26 EDT (music begins at 2:40 p.m.) The link for the service is: <https://youtu.be/dvEWxS5P6uQ>.

Mennonite Women has postponed the fall school kit drive. MCC is still distributing kits so MW encourages monetary contributions through First Mennonite (write school kits on the memo line or include an explanatory note.) Alternately, you may contribute directly to MCC at <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/cash-kits>. During the online process, you may specify that your cash cover shipping and transportation or that your donation fund a school kit.

This summer, our chancel display is crowd sourced. You're invited to place special items on the table each week, small souvenirs of daily life, travel, and the psalms that accompany our services. The display represents each person's meditative thoughts coming together. As items are used, they will be placed on the window sills for owners to retrieve. Thank you! ~ Wendy Chappell-Dick

Our Connections

This year marks the 100th anniversary of MCC. You're invited to join in a virtual celebration at mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream at 6:15 p.m., Sunday, July 26, as music begins the event. The livestream will feature a combination of live and pre-recorded speakers and music. MCC will broadcast live from Prairie St. Mennonite in Elkhart, site of a first meeting in the formation of MCC when representatives of various Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren groups met in July 1920.

You're invited to participate in a webinar, Climate and Community: Creating and implementing plans for positive change, July 30, at 2 p.m., led by Amy Huser and Jenna Liechty Martin of Camp Friedenswald. We all understand the need to address the climate crisis, but it can feel overwhelming and even pointless on an individual scale. Where do we prioritize our time and energy? Working in community with others on shared goals can empower us to create positive change. Hear how Camp is addressing climate holistically through the implementation of a triple-bottom-line (environmental, social, and financial) strategic plan to become a more resilient and sustainable organization. Participants will be encouraged to brainstorm ways to apply a similar framework for their family, congregation, or community. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g5FfBz9BRa6XFWUzUQZqxA.

Join MCC Great Lakes for a virtual Pipeline to Prison learning tour. Explore the U.S. criminal justice system from different perspectives and learn about practical opportunities for engagement and advocacy efforts locally. Through five online sessions, participants will explore the connections from broad systemic issues of racism and incarceration through the local level. This free learning tour will take place each Monday in August from 2-3:30 p.m. (EST). Registration is limited to 25 participants. The goal is for all participants to commit to attending each virtual session to get the full learning experience. For more information and to register visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison-virtual or call 574.534.4133.